



## San Joaquin County Historical Society & Museum

INCORPORATED

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December 26, 2012

Michael Machado  
Delta Protection Commission  
2101 Stone Blvd., Suite 210  
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Dear Mr. Machado,

On behalf of the San Joaquin County Historical Society (SJCHS), I am writing to express support for a National Heritage Area (NHA) designation in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. A Delta NHA would be a valuable tool to the development of interpretative and educational projects, projects which would help the public gain a better understanding of the natural, historical, and cultural resources of the Delta and the region's role in the national story. SJCHS could serve as a Delta NHA partner assisting in local outreach and guiding visitors to the historical sites and cultural resources within the Delta.

SJCHS has since 1966 operated the San Joaquin County Historical Museum in Micke Grove Regional Park, between Stockton and Lodi on the periphery of the Delta. The 18-acre Museum is fully accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It contains a number of exhibits that are relevant to the history of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Interior and exterior exhibits on the Miwok- and Yokuts-speaking Native peoples illustrate the importance of the Delta and rivers to the Native peoples in the region.

The Museum contains an extensive collection of historic agricultural tools and equipment. We are now restoring a 1919 Holt 75 Caterpillar as the focal point for an existing exhibition on the history of earthmoving equipment, most of which relates to the reclamation of the Delta for agriculture. Another exhibition in development will reveal the history of several crops identified with San Joaquin County, including dry beans, asparagus, and canning tomatoes—all of which have been grown in the Delta.

SJCHS was one of forty-four entities recently awarded a grant from the Nature Education Facilities Program (funded by Prop. 84, a 2006 bond measure). The grant project includes the development of a new interpretive walkway around an existing pond at the Museum that will reveal how the Delta has shaped the history of San Joaquin County. We have entered the final design phase for the exhibits funded by that grant and anticipate completion by December 2013. Another project in the conceptual design phase will add water efficiency demonstrations and exhibits to the Museum grounds.

Once again, the SJCHS expresses its support for a Delta NHA and looks forward to future opportunities to work in partnership on NHA activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David R. Stuart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

David R. Stuart  
Executive Director  
[www.SanJoaquinHistory.org](http://www.SanJoaquinHistory.org)